

whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis Group, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AG Box 1522, 14th & Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1522. FAX: (202) 720-4120.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record:

Dated: April 29, 1996.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 96-11017 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041996A]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permit no. 999 (P51)

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Dr. Donald B. Siniff, University of Minnesota, 1987 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108, has been issued a permit to "take" by Level A harassment, Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4016); and

Protected Species Program Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, Southwest Region, NMFS, 2570 Dole

Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808/973-2987).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 30, 1996, notice was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 3002) that the above-named applicant had submitted a request for a scientific research permit to "take" by Level A harassment (i.e., capture, restrain, chemically sedate, instrument, release, and recapture for instrument removal) up to 20 adult male, and up to 10 adult female Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) from the population at French Frigate Shoals, over an 18-month period. Up to five additional animals (regardless of gender) were also requested to be taken by Level A harassment in the event that attachment procedures must be prematurely terminated. The objective of the research is to investigate Hawaiian monk seal movements and foraging patterns using satellite-linked time-depth recorders to characterize habitat use. Authorization for the taking of adult males has been granted, with authorization for the taking of adult females contingent upon future review by both the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR Part 216), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking, Importing, and Exporting of Endangered Fish and Wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: April 26, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10994 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 041996C]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit No. 1000 (P66K)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, AK 99802, has been issued a permit to take up to 3000 harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and up to 600 spotted seals (*Phoca largha*) for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (907/586-7221).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 22, 1996, notice was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 11809) that a request for a scientific research permit to take harbor seals and spotted seals had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

Dated: April 24, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-10995 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 041996B]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 838 (P535)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of application for modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Stephen Insley, Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park, Washington, DC 20008, has requested a modification to permit No. 838.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The modification request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):